

displayed in the discharge of your duty. Let a
conviction of my
most earnest prayers for your happiness
accompany you in
your retirement; and while I accept, with the
warmest thanks,
your solicitude for my welfare, I beg you to
believe that I am,
dear sir, Yours, etc.,
George
Washington."

RETIREMENT.

In January, 1794, Jefferson reached Monticello to enjoy a retirement* which he intended should last many years. He was now in his fifty-first year, and he imagined, to judge from his correspondence, that his constitution was shattered and that he had become an old man. This feeling was merely the reaction following" upon his withdrawal from the severe strain of his Cabinet life; but it served to enhance the sincerity of his protestations of contentment with his new environment. As a matter of fact, his bodily strength was that of a much younger man—the result of his temperate and regular habits. A few months found him completely restored to health.

His domestic life had in it much to erase whatever unpleasant recollections he retained from, his public service. Four years before his elder daughter, Martha, had become the wife of Thomas Maim Randolph, a distant kinsman, and the young couple with their two children now came to live at Monticello. Mrs. Randolph was a highly accomplished woman, attractive in manners and conversation, endowed with unusual good sense, and devoted to her father. His younger daughter, Maria, now in her seventeenth year, completed the circle. She had for three years lived with her father in Philadelphia. She closely resembled her mother in her beauty and frailness of health, and was distinguished among all of her acquaintances for the unselfishness of her character.

Jefferson's life was now of the quietest description. Though his habit of letter-writing was practically dropped (during the

*See Retirement, page 369.